

out with twenty mounted men of Capt Gibson's company of horse, from Lancaster District, when they fell in with a small body of Indians, and exchanged shots with them.—one of his men was wounded, one shot twice through his clothes, and the horse of the Lieutenant slightly wounded. The Lieut. ordered a precipitate retreat, and has had charges made against him for so doing, as the Indians were inferior in number. It is said he might have taken them all. One of the Indians was killed."

Gen. Scott left Fort Drane on the morning of the 26th ult. with 2200 men, for the Withlacoochee, battle ground of Gen. Gaines. Gen. Eustis was to have left Volusia, with the whole army, for the same place, on Saturday, leaving only 66 men at Volusia.

"VOLUSIA, March 23.

"We have 750 mounted riflemen here, and about 1000 foot, and leave immediately for Withlacoochee. Yesterday, after two companies had crossed the river, the Indians fired on them, and killed three sentinels, and wounded nine men."

"CAMP VOLUSIA, March 22.

"We have just returned from an inspection to Spring Garden. We discovered the most undoubted signs of Indians, and succeeded in taking possession of a boat loaded with provisions, which they had prepared to take off. The Indians themselves, however, fled, and we were mortified again at finding that after a hard and fatiguing day's march, we arrived in time to find that the foe had fled from us a few hours previously."

Extract of a letter from one of the Staff Officers, of Col. BRISBANE's regiment, dated West side of the St. Johns, E. F. opposite Camp Volusia, March 23.

"Yesterday our portion of the army commenced crossing the St. Johns River, and had a rencontre with the Indians. Two companies of Col. BRISBANE's regiment, ASHBY's and FRIZZ's were first sent over as an advance guard, to protect the landing of the balance. These companies having crossed, were attacked by a considerable number of Indians. A sharp contest immediately ensued. Col. BRISBANE and most of his Staff, among them myself, were on the East bank of the river. The Irish Volunteers and Capt. HISLER's company, and as many men as could be got over, were sent in flats. Capt. PARKER's, DOUGIN, and ALLEN's companies, crossed below in the steam boat to cut off the retreat of the Indians. Col. BRISBANE, myself and some others, crossed in a small boat. The Indians were repulsed and driven back, having as near as we could ascertain, five men killed and several wounded. We saw four places on the banks of the river, where their dead had been thrown over, and found one lying dead about 150 yards from the battle ground. We saw tracks of blood on several trails on the palmetto bushes. The loss on our part was considerable. Three men of ASHBY's company, named AUSTIN, WEYMER, and HANKINLER were killed, and twelve wounded. All of the wounded have been attended to, and placed in the Hospital at Camp Volusia."

[Another letter mentions JAS. COOK as among the killed; and BLACK, BRYAN, SIMONS & FLOWERS among the wounded.] "Thus we have had the honor to give the Indians the first defeat they have met with. We are now in the Indian territory and expect in a few days to have a general engagement. We slept or rather lay in the bushes last night under arms and ready for action. The Indians are supposed to belong to POWELL's gang. We expect to leave here to-morrow and march against the main body of Indians."

SAVANNAH, APRIL 2.—Letter from Florida.

The steam packet Florida, Capt. Hubbard, arrived yesterday afternoon from Picolet, via Jacksonville, &c.; and the schr. George & Mary, Capt. Willey, from the St. Johns.

We learn from a passenger in the schr. G. & M., that a report (which was credited) prevailed at Jacksonville when he left that place, that a detachment of mounted men, a portion of the troops under Gen. Eustis, left Volusia on Thursday or Friday of last week as a scouting party—that after proceeding several miles, the detachment fell in with a party of Indians, who fired upon them, and killed, it is said two or three of our men. The fire was returned by the detachment, by which five Indians were killed—that the commanding officer of the detachment deeming, it is presumed, the Indians too strong, ordered a retreat. In the absence of certain information, we give this report as received, and regret much that we are deprived of any means of obtaining any information which can be implicitly relied upon; the Jacksonville Courier, to which paper we generally look for information, not having been issued when the Florida left on Wednesday last.

The Steam Boat Santee was, we understand, also fired upon last week by Indians, between Volusia and Picolet—but no damage was sustained.

We also learn that Gen. Scott, with

about 2000 men, had proceeded on Saturday last from Fort Drane for the Withlacoochee, where if he met the Indians, a severe battle, which may probably terminate the war, would ensue. If not found there, it was the intention of the gallant General to proceed with his forces into the nation. His march is therefore full of interest, and we must be satisfied to remain in painful anxiety for our patriotic army, until we can ascertain the result of their manœuvres.

NEW-ORLEANS, March 17.

IMPORTANT FROM TEXAS.—The schooner W. A. Turner arrived yesterday in 7 days from Matagorda. Through the politeness of Captain Brookfield, we have obtained the particulars of the late siege by the Mexicans of San Antonio de Behar as ascertained at Matagorda when he left.

The besieging army was commanded by Generals Sesma and Cos. It consisted of 40 companies of infantry, numbering at an average of 60 or 70 men each; and of about 1500 cavalry under Folisalos—with 500 mules and baggage of all kinds. These were seen and numbered by Captain Dermitt of the Texian army, previous to the engagement. The Texians in the fort were infantry and some cavalry for foraging expeditions, under the command of Colonel Bowie and Travers—numbering about 200.

The assault on the fort of Alamo in the town of San Antonio commenced about 3 P. M., on the 23rd of February, the Mexican army hoisting a black flag aloft as indicating no quarters. The garrison being well supplied with 18 pounders planted on the fort, made them ply with dreadful effect, sweeping companies of the assailants before the shot. The Mexicans surrounded the fort on all sides; but on all sides were they saluted with its artillery. This continued till 7 P. M., when the Mexicans thought proper to evacuate the town; and retired to an encampment within two miles—after leaving 500 of their comrades slain before the fort.

The provisional government of Texas being informed of the contest, an immediate draft of one-third of all Texian capable of bearing arms was ordered by the acting Governor. But so eager were the Texians in general for their prompt and certain triumph, that when the order reached Matagorda, not one-third only, but all able-bodied citizens volunteered. Numerous companies were immediately on the march to San Antonio, to drive the Mexicans beyond the Rio Grande, or leave them on the field of battle. They will act on the offensive in their future operations.

We are happy to learn that Doctor Grant is not killed; he, Colonel Johnson and another were saved. It appears that Grant and some 20 or 30 others had gone on a scouting party, and had approached too near the invading army. They were immediately attacked by a column of the enemy; and only 3 escaped—Grant among the number, exhausted and almost naked; as he was closely pursued by the Mexican cavalry. Yet this is the triumph so bombastically blazoned in the account of the gallant Nicolas Rodriguez, published in the Bee of yesterday. The document was genuine; but we 'guessed' it was not authentic.

The Texians have abandoned Copano, and fortified Labadie or Goliad, higher up. There are now 700 men stationed there, well prepared with artillery and ammunition; and disposed to play checkmate with the wing of the Mexican army, under General Urrea, lately encamped at San Patricio.—Bee.

MR. VAN BUREN, AS A SPEAKER.

We copy the following, from a letter to the Editor of the Sunday Morning News, (an opposition paper) from his Washington Correspondent. It pays a glowing tribute to the eloquent and commanding powers of a political opponent. Ed. Jour.

A thousand times have I been asked, what sort of a speaker is Mr. Van Buren? I have had a pretty good opportunity to know; for, during the whole time that he was in the senate, I was a constant attendant upon its debates. When called upon for a sudden explanation or reply, he was never flustered in the least degree, but would evolve an answer or an argument in such a way as to confuse and confound his adversary. I may truly say that I never knew him to make an effort; though what he did might seem to those unacquainted with his exuberant and glowing mind to be the result of an effort. His words always seemed to me to flow freely and untrammelled, from the perpetual well-spring of native mind; and yet they were always so checked and guarded by an apparent innate sense of propriety, as never to overreach their mark, while, at the same time, they never fell short of it. On some subjects he would display his powers, without reserve, as a mere speak-

er. The most remarkable case of this sort was his speech on the bill granting pensions to the remnant of the revolutionary soldiers. This, I believe, was in the year 1829. I was in the senate chamber at the time, and was so enchanted and fascinated by the eloquence of the "magician," as they now call him, that nothing would induce me to leave the chamber till I had drunk into my ears every word that he uttered, in a speech of four hours. Every one seemed to feel himself in the grasp of a mighty intellect, and felt awed, subdued and chastened, by the splendor and power of that unequalled oration.

THE JOURNAL:

CAMDEN, A. RIL 9, 1836.

We are again obliged to throw ourselves on the indulgence of our readers. We have been disappointed in getting paper of the proper size, and have been compelled either to issue the present diminutive sheet or not publish at all. The interesting news from Florida, induced us to adopt the former course.

TOWN ELECTION.

At an election held in this town on Monday last, the following gentlemen, were re-elected Intendant and Wardens for the ensuing year.

H. R. COOK, Intendant.

H. LEVY,
C. J. SHANNON,
JOHN M'CAA } Wardens.
JNO. D. MURRAY }

RO LERY OF THE MAIL.

We learn from the Columbia papers that the Mail between that place and Charleston had been robbed on the 15th, 18th, 21st and 24th ultimo. The whole extent of loss has not been ascertained, though it is known that money and drafts to a considerable amount have been stolen. The mail from this place to Charleston passes by way of Columbia, but we have heard of no person here having suffered any loss.

FLORIDA.

We have occupied a considerable portion of our paper to-day with news from this Territory. We had hoped and supposed, and so expressed ourselves, some days since, that the war was at an end; but we find we were mistaken, and believe now, that the advances of OSCEOLA to General GAINES, was merely intended to gain time for the purpose of retreating, or more strongly fortifying himself. Gen. SCOTT is however, pushing the campaign with great vigor, and we anticipate an early settlement of the matter. The next news will no doubt be of a decisive character.

KERSHAW VOLUNTEERS.

As many of our readers feel a peculiar interest in matters relative to this particular corps, we take pleasure in laying the following extracts of letters (from various members of the company,) received in this town during the week. The dates are as late as those received from any other source.

"CAMP, OPPOSITE VOLUSIA, March 25.

On Tuesday last, while at Volusia, not a mile from here, on the other bank of the St. Johns, Gen. EUSTIS, in his orders made an appeal to our patriotism, urging additional efforts, and still further submission to privation, assuring us that a few days of strenuous exertion would terminate the campaign. In consequence, all extra baggage was sent by Steam Boat to Picolet, and all were eager for the more. The troops commenced crossing the river, after two companies had got over, they were fired on by a small party of Indians and three men of ASHBY's company were killed and several wounded. They were not well prepared even for a skirmish, but behaved well, and soon drove off the Indians—having killed several as is supposed. Only one body was found—the others having been thrown into the river. The body found is believed to be that of OUCHER BILLY, a chief notorious for burning and murdering—

It will yet be many days before we can join SCOTT. Before that time in all probability, he will have met POWELL (OSCEOLA) in some way, and the affair will be over, our course will then be homewards. Col BUTLER, has just returned with 4 companies of his battalion, from an expedition of 5 days—not an Indian seen by them—something like our excursion—from which we had not returned when Col B. started. I have since been out for part of a day, having seen only a track. A party from one of our companies yesterday met with five, but managed so badly as to kill only two—the others ran into the swamp. The Lieutenant who commanded the detachment, I am told (they are on the other side of the river) is censured. His name is ARNOLD, from Abbeville.

VOLUSIA, March 26, 5 o'clock, P. M.

Contrary to all expectation on our arrival, we are here still, but the last of the troops are now crossing the St. Johns, and are forming, to go a few miles this evening, consequently this is the latest date that can be received from the company for 10 or 12 days.

All the company are well, and in fine spirits. A firing of cannon and bursting of bombs, was distinctly heard, from three till eight o'clock last evening (the guide says) between Fort King and Withlacoochee: conjecture is busy to-

day as to the cause and result. It is generally supposed that SCOTT had attacked the Indians there, especially as the 25th was the day stated to us in a general order read at St. Josephs for an attack to be made.

"VOLUSIA, March 26.

"I hope we will all be shortly on the way home, for we all think the war will be ended in about ten days—particularly when we get home. In the fight which took place here four days ago, and which you no doubt heard of, the whites lost 3 men, and the Indians 5 certain, and probably several more. The body of their chief OUCHER BILLY, or BILLY HICKS was found the day after the fight, concealed under some brush. We yesterday and last night distinctly heard the firing of bombs and cannon, some forty miles off, supposed to be an engagement between POWELL (OSCEOLA) and SCOTT. If so, there will be no chance of fight for us."

From the Savannah Georgian of the 4th inst. Extract of a letter received by a gentleman of this city, dated

VOLUSIA, March 27.

"The left wing of the Army of Florida, Brig. Gen. Eustis crossed the St. Johns, yesterday, and marched this morning for the seat of war.

Col Butler's command for whose safety so much anxiety was manifested has returned safe. Their detention was caused by bad roads. Three guides have arrived to-day from St. Augustine to accompany the army.

The mounted men sent in pursuit of Col. Butler, engaged a body of Indians, and but for the cowardice of the Lieutenant the whole force would have surrendered to them. The Indians were entirely run down by the horses when he made his men retreat. Three of the Indians were begging for mercy.

The whole number of troops here before the movement was fifteen hundred, including 750 horse."

In addition to the foregoing, we find in the Columbia Commercial Bulletin, of Wednesday last, the following: "POSTSCRIPT.

"CAMP VOLUSIA, March 29.

Extract of a letter from one of our Volunteers. "A great battle has just been fought. General EUSTIS behaved most cowardly, and as he deserved, was killed by an Indian."

We know not what confidence is to be placed in this information, but consider its truth rather doubtful. Whether it be true or false, however it has created an intense anxiety in our community, (our volunteers being in General EUSTIS' division) to hear further from the scene of action.

ABOLITION—MR. VAN BUREN.

Our readers will have read the letter of Mr. VAN BUREN on this subject, which we published last week, before this time. It was a candid, and we think, explicit statement of his views, on this vitally interesting question. We stated then, however, that from the character of his opponents, we had no idea that it would save him from misrepresentation, and we have the proof before us that we are right. We confess though, that we had not supposed that he would in so short a time, be so much misrepresented, as we find him in the last Western Carolinian. Speaking of Mr. VAN BUREN, the Carolinian says:

"Pretending not to be acquainted with his sentiments on the Abolition question, Mr. VanBuren's friends at Jackson in this State, addressed him a letter, as stated in our last, requesting [to know] whether he believe that Congress has the power to interfere with or abolish slavery in the District of Columbia?"

Now, it has been asserted by Mr. VAN BUREN's friends in North Carolina that the individuals, who propounded the question, which Mr. V. B. answered in his letter were not his friends, but were his political opponents, and this assertion remains uncontradicted, for the best of reasons we expect, because it is true.

The Carolinian goes on however to say: "His answer is not such as, under the peculiar circumstances of the case, we had anticipated. It is rank abolition."

Can any one believe that an Editor who would make such an assertion after reading Mr. V. B.'s letter, can be otherwise than blinded by the influence of party prejudice. Look at the following sentences from the letter, and see if they are entitled to the appellation of "rank abolition," which the Editor has given to it.

"The relation of master and slave, is a matter exclusively belonging to the people of each State within its own boundary, and that any attempt by the government or people of any other State, or by the General Government, to interfere with or disturb it, would violate the spirit of that compromise which lies at the basis of the federal compact."

"I do not hesitate to give it to you as my deliberate and well considered opinion, that there are objections to the exercise of this power, (in the District of Columbia) against the wishes of the slaveholding States, as imperative in their nature and obligations, in regulating the conduct of public men, as the most palpable want of constitutional power would be."

"I recognise, to the fullest extent, the propriety of this desire on your part; and although there is nothing in your letter making the avowal necessary, I prefer that not only you, but all the people of the United States shall now understand, that if the desire of that portion of them which is favorable to my elevation to the Chief Magistracy, should be gratified, I must go into the Presidential Chair the inflexible and uncompromising opponent of any attempt on the part of Congress to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia, against the wishes of the slave holding States; and also with the determination equally decided, to resist the slightest interference with the subject in the States where it exists."

Do these extracts bear the character of "rank abolition," or do they not rather convict the Carolinian of misrepresentation.